by the employees and initiate action to inflict punishment befitting the seriousness of the irregularities committed by the delinquent employees. RBI has also been circulating to banks details of frauds of ingenious nature and advising banks to adopt safeguards. The need for obtaining proper and effective introduction when new accounts are opened has also been retressed. RBI has also set up a special investigating cell to undertake special investigation and scrutiny into reported cases of major frauds as well as snap inspections covering systems procedures and control arrangements in identified fraud prone areas.

Opening of bank Branches in rural areas of Rajasthan

1306. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the rural areas of Rajasthan have not been covered by the banks;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps are being taken to open branches of banks in these areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c) In the branch expansion policy for 1985—90 it is proposed to achieve a coverage of 17,000 population per bank office in rural and semi-urban areas of each block and location of at least one bank office within a distance of 10 kms. from each village. Under the current Policy, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has so far allotted 224 eligible rural centres in Rajasthan to various banks for opening their branches during the policy period. After opening branches against these allotments, 19 blocks would still continue to be deficient in banking coverage with the reference to the population norm laid down in the Policy. In order to ensure that the objectives of the Policy are achieved in these blocks also, RBI has again advised the concerned Lead Banks to identify sufficient number of eligible centres in these 19 blocks and forward the lists of identified centres to RBI through State Government of Rajasthan for consideration of further allotments.

Loan by the SBI to rural poor in Rajasthan

1307. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of rural poor in Rajasthan so far benefited through the State Bank of India assistance; and

(b) what is the total amount of loan so far provided by the State Bank to the poor rural people in Bhilwara district of Rajasthan.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) State Bank of India (SBI) has reported that 57, 972 rural poor in Rajasthan have been assisted by it. State Bank of India has also reported that an amount of Rs. 289.12 lakhs has been disbursed by the bank in 5444 borrowal accounts pertaining to the rural poor in Bhilwara District, Rajasthan.

Social forestry scheme in Orissa

1308. SHRI BASUDEB MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total area covered under the Social Forestry Scheme in Orissa at present; and

(b) what is the total expenditure incurred thereon so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) The area covered by afforestation in Orissa upto 1986-87 is about 6.12 lakh hectares.

(b) Expenditure incurred thereon is about Rs. 75.28 crores.

Evasion of excise duty by the Golden Tobacco Company

1309. SHRI HASHIM RAZA ALLAHABADI ABDI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Golden Tobacco Company has been charged with